

# Cost Key to Converting Water from World's Seas

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT

The water emergency just declared in a four-state Delaware River basin area brings to the fore again the possibility of getting fresh water out of the salt sea at a reasonable cost.

In 1952, when the U.S. Office of Saline Water was set up, it began experimentally de-salting water, at a cost of around \$4 to \$5 per 1,000 gallons. Now it has brought the cost down to about \$1 to \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons, which is a great improvement, but still leaves the costs on the high side.

The Office of Saline Water has three demonstration plants actually supplying de-salted water to consumers in Roswell, N.M., Webster, S.

D., and Freeport, Tex.

An international meeting on de-salting has been called by President Johnson for October, and world interest in water problems is indicated by the fact that 55 nations have already said they would attend.

**HORSE POWER** — The affluent society is probably responsible for an increase in the past 15 years in the nation's horse population. The last time the Agriculture Department counted horses, in 1950, there were 5½ million. Now there are more than 8 million, according to a Minneapolis animal feed manufacturer.

Dr. J. Wesley Nelson, research chief for Nutrena

feeds, who made the estimate, expects the number of equines to continue increasing for another 10 years. His firm recently began making a feed exclusively for horses because, he said, horse feeds generally have been based "more on the nutritional needs of cattle than the needs of horses."

Another new twist offered by Nutrena is "prescription" feeding. This is done with the help of a prescription calculator, a device used for determining the special nutritional needs of any individual horse.

The high point for horses, Dr. Nelson said, was 1915, when there were over 21 million in the U.S. They're making a comeback now—not as

work horses, but as pleasure horses in a prosperous society that can afford to buy them and feed them properly.

**THINGS TO COME** — Fish-locating glasses eliminate bright water reflections and permit fishermen to look down 10 feet or more below the surface of a lake or pond.

A switch can set all four signal lights on a car flashing at the same time in case the auto breaks down and help is needed. They say it can be installed without cutting, splicing or taping. Machine that automatically defaces or retains credit cards that are listed as lost, stolen, or invalid. Tree shaker that rattles ripened fruit to

the ground without shaking the tree out of its roots. Apparatus can be pulled by a standard farm tractor.

**'SUPERMARKET'** — When our Gemini astronauts are in orbit there is a network of stations strung around the world that tracks and communicates with them. Many of the stations are in remote areas, far from stores and supplies.

Backing up the space men at these stations is a logistics depot operated by the Bendix Field Engineering Corp. that stocks more than 12,000 different items, ranging from aspirin to air conditioners.

Specialists called Gemini-ners man the stations and maintain and operate the equipment that supplies

data on the booster vehicle and capsule systems of the spacecraft during launches, as well as the physical condition of the astronauts.

An intricate electronic part and a simple housekeeping item might appear on the same billing to the "supermarket's" customers. In a matter of minutes the "order" can be on its way from the Maryland depot to the tracking station by special plane or commercial airliner. The final transportation leg might be by a Jeep or by a donkey.

**BITS O' BUSINESS** — Farm product prices increased 2 per cent in the month ended June 15, with higher prices for hogs and cattle mainly re-

sponsible. Farm prices as a whole were 10 per cent above mid-June of last year. All-time half-year records were set this year in production and sales by two vital industries, automobiles and steel. Airlines have on order the greatest number of aircraft for purchase at one time. The orders total 480 new jet and prop-jet aircraft, valued at more than \$2.4 billion. Federal government starts suit to block the merger of the largest and the fifth-largest banks in St. Louis.

**SCIENCE NEWS** — Giant computer system now under development may be able to register all the known chemicals, making it possible for chemists to do instant chemi-

cal research. Bright red triangular emblem has been designed to glow brightly both day and night as a safety warning on tractors and other vehicles that normally move at slower than 25 miles per hour. Emblem is visible to motorists 1,000 feet in daylight, and at outer limits of a car's headlights at night. Two-man submarine will be used to survey density and locations of plants as much as 140 feet below the surface of the ocean. For the first time, archaeologists have discovered ancient buffalo bones in California, with evidence that Indians were hunting buffalo in the Los Angeles area about the time Columbus discovered America.

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REDONDO: Manhattan Beach and Inglewood (OPEN TIL 10 P.M.)

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